

Application No. 10/816379
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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. H01.2B-11507-US01

Amendments To The Drawings:

None.

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Remarks

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This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated **October 31, 2005**.

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 4 and 7 under §112; rejected claim 1 as obvious over US 5501633 in view of 4413718; rejected claims 8-9 and 11-13 on the combination as to claim 1, further in view of US 5830055; rejected claim 10 on the combination as to claim 9, further in view of US 4541547; rejected claim 14 on the combination as to claim 1, further in view of US 5788046, and finally allowed claims 2 and 6, and rejected claim 5 as dependent from a rejected base claim.

Applicant gratefully notes the allowance of claims 2 and 6. Applicant has amended claims 3, 4 and 7 to fix the §112 rejections noted on page 2 of the office action. This is believed to also place claims 3-5 and 7 in condition for allowance, along with claims 2 and 6.

Applicant respectfully traverses the §103 rejections to claims 1, 8-9 and 11-13, 10, and 14.

Applicant also added a new claim 15, which is claim 2 rewritten in a more classic US claim format, and which still contains integral prism mentioned in the reasons for allowance.

Claim 15 is believed allowable over the art of record.

Finally, applicant added a new claim 16, which is dependent on claim 1, and which adds the further limitation that each coin tube includes windows made of a transparent material. Support for this amendment is found on page 6, lines 12-16.

Applicant also made several amendments to fix obvious typos.

§103 Rejections

Claim 1 specifies that the circuit board is on the side of the housing for the coin tubes opposite to the coin tubes. Furthermore, the circuit board has openings or apertures through

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which the light source and the light receiving elements can be reached. Such a structure is not shown in Watkins and Dean. Watkins shows a frame or housing part 104 to which a circuit board 110 is attached supporting a light emitting element and a light receiving element 108, 112. **To this purpose the coin tube 102 has respective openings.** This is contrary to the invention as Watkins does not show that the circuit board is opposite to the wall of the housing and the circuit board has openings as well as the housing. In Watkins neither the circuit board 110 nor the wall 104 has openings. Thus, the structure as claimed by claim 1 is not disclosed by Watkins. In Dean the circuit board is not shown. There is shown in figure 5 and 6 the housing wall 62 to which the coin tube is mounted. The wall 62 has an opening which is to receive the support plate for the diode 84 and the receiving element 86. Therefore, there is not shown the arrangement of a circuit board on the side of the housing wall opposite to the coin tube, whereby the housing wall and the circuit board each having small openings for the passage of light.

A combination of Watkins and Dean would not lead to the teachings of claim 1 because the light emitting diode and the light receiving element are immediately associated with openings in the coin tube.

Therefore, the limitations of claim 1 are not believed to be met by the combination of Watkins and Dean. Because the limitations of claim 1 are not believed to be met by the primary combination, the other rejections to dependent claims 8-14 are also believed to be traversed.

New claim 15 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons that claim 2 is currently allowed.

New claim 16 is believed to be allowable because it depends from claim 1, which is believed to be allowable over the art of record. Furthermore, claim 16 adds the new limitation

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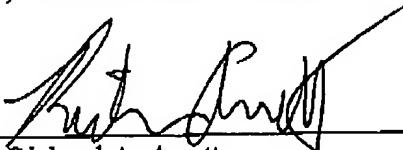
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that the windows be made of a transparent material.

Claims 2 and 6 stand allowed, and claims 1, 3-5, and 7-16 are believed to be in condition for allowance, as currently amended.

Respectfully submitted,

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